

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 02369 161624Z

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6794

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2369

NODIS

FOR S/S

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US

SUBJ: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER

REF: PEKING 2353

1. AT THE END OF THE MEETING NOVEMBER 14 BETWEEN CODEL CURTIS AND PRC VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN (REFTEL) SENATOR BAYH SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH LI IN PRIVATE AND CONVEYED A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER TO CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG.

2. I DO NOT KNOW THE EXACT WORDING OF THE MESSAGE. THE SENATOR HAD INDIRECTLY INFORMED ME THAT BEFORE THE DELEGATION LEFT WASHINGTON MR. CARTER HAD SPOKEN TO HIM BY TELEPHONE AND ASKED THAT HE MAKE KNOWN TO HUA MR. CARTER'S EXPECTATION OF BEING IN TOUCH WITH HUA SOON AFTER TAKING OFFICE, AND MR. CARTER'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE SENATOR WISHED TO DO THIS PRIVATELY AND ALONE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF PARTICIPATION OF HIS FELLOW SENATORS. THE SENATOR THEN LATER DIRECTLY REQUESTED MY ADVICE ON HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION. AS THE MEETING WITH LI WAS BREAKING UP, I ENLISTED THE HELP OF NANCY TANG, EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH SENATOR BAYH WANTED TO SPEAK PRIVATELY WITH LI, WHICH HE DID AS THE REST OF THE PARTY EXITED THE GREAT HALL AHEAD OF HIM. EXCEPT FOR MYSELF, I BELIEVE NO ONE ELSE NOTICED THE BRIEF INTERCHANGE.

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3. WHILE THE LIAISON OFFICE THUS FACILITATED DELIVERY OF THE MESSAGE, WE ASSUME THAT NO REPLY IS REQUIRED OR WILL BE FORTHCOMING, BUT IF THERE IS ANY, IT WILL GO FROM THE CHINESE DIRECTLY TO THE SENATOR.

4. WE DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE TO SHOW DRAFT OF THIS TELEGRAM TO SENATOR BAYH BEFORE HE LEFT PEKING, BUT HE APPROVED OUR REPORTING THE MATTER.
GATES

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NNN

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